

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A device for directing energy to a target area of skin, comprising:

an energy source that emits energy;

an intermediate substance comprising a generally solid layer adapted to be placed against
a that contacts the target area of the skin, wherein the intermediate substance is configured to
block and blocks the emitted energy from directly striking the target area of the skin; and

an absorbing material embedded in the intermediate substance that absorbs at least a portion of the emitted energy, and thereby provides heat to the target area in an amount that causes pores in the target area to expand.

22. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises
[[is]] a suspension containing high absorbing particles.

23. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises
[[is]] a thin film containing high absorbing particles.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises
[[is]] a paper containing a highly absorbing substance.

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises
[[is]] a solid mixture containing highly absorbing particles.

30. (cancelled)

31. (cancelled)

32. (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a thermal insulator containing highly absorbing particles.

34. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a layer of thermal conductor containing highly absorbing particles.

35. (previously presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a metallic layer containing highly absorbing particles.

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (currently amended) A method of treating a skin blemish, comprising:

emitting radiative energy towards a target area of the blemish;

blocking transmission of the radiative energy to the target area by interposing an intermediate substance that absorbs the radiative energy to produce heat, wherein the intermediate substance comprises a generally solid layer configured to be placed against the skin blemish; and

allowing the intermediate substance to conduct the heat to the target area to a degree that expands pores in the target area and thereby enhance transdermal drug delivery.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the intermediate substance comprises a thin insulating material mixed with grains of material capable of absorbing at least one frequency band of the electromagnetic energy.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the emitted radiative energy comprises pulses from a laser.

41-44. (cancelled)

45. (currently amended) The device of claim 21 further comprising a heat removing mechanism adapted to remove heat from skin.

46. (currently amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the absorbing material is embedded in the intermediate substance ~~includes absorbing material~~ in sufficient density to convert at least 20% of the emitted energy to heat.

47. (currently amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the absorbing material is embedded in the intermediate substance at ~~includes~~ a plurality of absorbing locations.

48. (currently amended) The device ~~method~~ of claim 21, wherein the energy source comprises a diode laser.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises laser emissions.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises ultrasound.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the radiate energy source comprises microwave.

52. (cancelled)

53. (cancelled)

54. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising actively cooling the target area.

55. (new) A device for treatment of a target area of skin, the device sized and configured to be held by a human hand and comprising:

an energy source that emits energy;

an intermediate substance on a first end of the device, the intermediate substance configured to contact the target area of skin, the intermediate substance comprising a generally solid layer adapted to be placed against the target area of skin, the intermediate substance

comprising an absorbing material embedded in the intermediate substance that absorbs at least a portion of the energy emitted by the energy source, wherein the intermediate substance is configured to block energy emitted from the energy source from directly striking the target area of skin.

56. (new) The device of claim 55 wherein the intermediate substance is configured to convert at least a portion of the energy emitted by the energy source into thermal energy, and the intermediate substance is configured to transmit at least a portion of the thermal energy to the target area of skin when the intermediate substance is placed against the target area of skin.

57. (new) The device of claim 21 wherein the intermediate substance is positioned within a cap, wherein the cap is replaceably attached to a main body of the device.

58. (new) The device of claim 57, wherein the cap comprises a generally cylindrical shape having a circumferential external surface comprising an insulating material.

59. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the energy source is configured to provide electromagnetic energy.

60. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the energy source comprises a laser.

61. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the output of the energy source is less than about 5 W.

62. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the energy source comprises an electrical heater.

63. (new) The device of claim 55, further comprising an element configured to remove energy from the absorbing material.